Central Excise duty on art silk processing industry

2401 SHRl M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Central excise duty is levied On the art silk processing industry;

(b) whether Government hav$_e$ been coPering excise duty from filament fabric; and also from spun fabrics separately;

(c) whether this separate collection has 'resulted in loss of revenue; and

(d) whether th$_e$ Maharashtra Pradesh Fabric Processing Association has made a plea for a fresh appraisal of the excise duty levy system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Processed man-mad$_e$ fabrics are fully exempted from basic exe'se duty. However, additional excise duty i$_n$ lieu of sales tax is leviable on such fabrics.

(b) and (c) No distinction is made in the rater, of excise duty on synthetic fabrics on th$_0$ ground that such fabrics are made of filament yarn or spun yarn.

(c.) The Maharashtra Pradesh Fabric Processing Association have, in their representation, suggested that the duty leviable on synthetic fabrics may be shifted to the yarn stage.

Showcause notices issued to th$_e$ North Eastern Tobacco Company

2402. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will th$_e$ Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

I a) whether it i$_s$ a fact that some cigarette manufacturing companies hav$_e$ been carrying on manufacturing business without proper licence; if so, what ar$_e$ their details;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several show cause notices have been served o$_n$ Mizoram based North Eastern Tobacco (NET) company by Central Excise;

(c) what are the reasons for issuance of these show cause notice; and what is the outcome of these notices; and

(d) what ar$_e$ the reasons fur not taking any penal action against the North Eastern Tobacco (NET)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl AJIT PANJA); (a) to (d) One case relating to M/s. North Eastern Tobacco Company, Mizoram (alleged to b$_e$ $_a$ dummy unit of M/s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd.) has come to the notice of th$_e$ Government where the Company was manufacturing cigarettes without possessing any Central Excise manufacturing licence. M/s. North Eastern Tobacco Company manufactured and cleared without payment of duty and without possessing any Central Excise licence 881 CFC's of cigarettes during the period 5-10-87 to 31-10-87.

M/s. G.T.C. Industries Ltd. have filled a Writ Petition before the Calcutta High Court against summons and investigations by the Central Excise Officers of Shillong Collectorate. A title suit has aiso been filed in the Court of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Judicial) Aizwal for declaring that the Central Excise and Salt Act. 1944 is not applicable to the territories now comprising the State of Mizoram. An injunction was obtained from the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Judicial), Aizwal against further proceedings. The Central Excise Department took up the matter before the Guwahati High Court and finally the Supreme Court, and with the permission of the Supreme Court show caus$_e$ notices have been served on M/s. G.T.C- Industries Ltd., M/s. North Eastern Tobacco Company and 35 others on 24-4-1988. The Supreme Court has also observed that the question of applicability of

th$_e$ Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 to Mizoram should b$_e$ decided by the Guwahati High Court. As per the orders of the Supreme Court final orders in respect of the Show Cause Notices ca$_n$ be passed but no effect can be given until further orders of the Court.

AU the parties to the show cause notices have not yet filed their final replies. The matte$_r$ is presently pending adjudication before the Collector of Central Excise, Shillong.

Expenditure Tax

2403. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE b$_e$- pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement Dr. Chelliah Committee Report on expenditure tax;

(b) whether Government have considered the replacement of Income-tax by expenditure tax; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN 3?3E MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The Government hav$_e$ accepted the view of the Study Group on Expenditure Tax, that total replacement of Incometax by expenditure tax is not practical. Th$_e$ suggestion to base savings in-centives-on the netting principle was partly accepted by the Government while introducing section 80CCA of the Income—tax Act, by the Finance Act, 1987 with effect from assessment year 1988-89, in respect of deposits in 'The National Savings Scheme, 1987' and contributions to th$_e$ approved annuity plar.$_s$ of the Life Insurance Corporation »f lndia,

Affairs of National Wastelands Development Board

2404. DR. BAPU KALDATE; Will th$_e$ Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that several members of the National Wastelands Deveopment Board (NWDB j have resigned;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of their 1 estimations;

(c) whether it is also a fa^t that speed of the v ork of afforestation his not kept up and reached the target;
and

<d'j if so, what corrective 'neasures have been taken for wasteland development?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl Z. R. ANSARI); (a) and (b) Since the setting up of the National Wastelands Development Board in May, 1985, only one member has resigned from the membership of the Board on grounds of ill-health.

(c) and (d) The progress of afforestation during the past three years has been as under:—

Year	Target	Achievement (in million hectares)
1985-86 . . .	1.45	1.51
1986-87 ...	1.71	1.76
1987-88 . . .	1.79	1.77
1988-89 . . .	2.00	1.90
(Upto December 1988)		

The target for 1988-89. is likely to be exceeded.